

What is claimed is:

1.

A safety outlet for providing an electrical connection to a conventional electrical plug, the outlet comprising: a socket for receiving a prong on an electrical plug; and a switch movable between on and off positions by insertion or removal of the prong in the socket.

2.

The safety outlet of claim 1 wherein the socket includes two or more contact slots and the switch is moveable to an on position only upon insertion of a prong into each of the contact slots.

3.

The safety outlet of claim 1 wherein the switch is a proximity sensor.

4.

The safety outlet of claim 1 wherein the switch is a mechanical switch.

5.

The safety outlet of claim 1 wherein the switch is an optical sensor.

6.

A safety outlet for providing an electrical connection, the outlet comprising:  
a socket having a first contact slot and a second contact slot;  
a first switch movable between an on and off position upon insertion or removal of any object in the first contact slot;  
a second switch being movable between an on and off position upon insertion or removal of any object in the second contact slot; and  
wherein an electrical connection is established only if the first switch and the second switch are both in the on position.

7.

The safety outlet of claim 6 further comprising a source of electrical energy electrically connected to the first switch and the second switch for providing approximately 120V Ac at approximately 60Hz.

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8.

A method of establishing an electrical connection from an outlet while reducing the chance of electrical shock, the method comprising:

installing an electrical outlet having a socket for receiving a prong on an electrical plug and a switch moveable between on and off positions by insertion or removal of the prong;

inserting the prong into the socket; and moving the switch to an on position to establish an electrical connection.

9.

The method of establishing an electrical connection of claim 7 wherein the socket includes a first contact slot and a second contact slot, the plug includes a first prong and a second prong and the switch is moveable to an on position only upon insertion the first prong into the first contact slot and the second prong into the second contact slot.